

Chapter 1

Background

MISSION

1-1. The mission of Army bands in Force XXI Operations is to provide music to enhance unit cohesion and morale and to musically support military operations. Bands provide important support of information operations, and should be integrated into public affairs (PA), civil affairs (CA), and psychological operations (PSYOP) plans. Army bands are assigned secondary missions (except The U.S. Army Band, The U.S. Army Field Band, and The U.S. Army Military Academy Band, which have unique missions). These principal secondary missions are augmentation of security operations for command posts (CP), or augmentation of perimeter security for enemy prisoner of war (EPW)/civilian internee operations.

OVERVIEW

1-2. Bands provide support for ceremonies, troop support functions, concerts, protocol functions, and religious ceremonies, both for US troops and for host nation populations. Army bands are musical performing units composed of trained, manned, and equipped soldiers that provide music for a variety of purposes. (The following bullets are not in a hierarchy.)

- To enhance soldiers' morale and their will to win
- To win the support of the American people
- To support the commander's intent
- To serve as a commander's combat multiplier
- To aid military operations
- To enhance recruiting efforts
- To support civil affairs/community relations operations

EMPLOYMENT

1-3. Army bands are the commander's weapon of peace and provide support in both the garrison and battlefield environments, as evidenced in Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm, and more recently, Operations Joint Endeavor and Urgent Fury. Bands perform indoors and outdoors in most climatic conditions. Musical support, however, should be withheld when weather conditions would impair or damage musical instruments, or threaten the welfare of the performers. In addition, bands will not perform music or carry instruments while double timing to avoid causing injury to band soldiers or damage to musical instruments. Based upon the specific band mission, bands will provide support to any geographical area of operations.

SUSTAINMENT

1-4. Bands provide support utilizing TOE personnel and equipment. Bands are dependent on appropriate elements of the division or installation for religious, legal, health service, finance, personnel, food service, unit maintenance on organic equipment except musical instruments, and transportation support. Based upon the METT-TC analysis of the parent unit commander, bands will utilize and configure the appropriate personnel, equipment, and musical styles.

LEVELS OF MILITARY OPERATIONS

1-5. Army bands provide support to U.S. objectives at every level of military operations.

ECHELONS ABOVE CORPS (EAC) LEVEL

1-6. At the national level, the high visibility of band operations performed, the geographic location of the activities/interests that are supported, and the unique events that characterize these operations are delineated by several considerations.

- Providing musical support to the U.S. Army Military District of Washington (MDW) and its tenant and supported activities, national U.S. Army recruiting operations, and as directed by Headquarters, Department of the Army.
- Providing national and international musical support to strengthen the ties between the Army and the civilian community for the Office, Chief of Public Affairs, and as directed by Headquarters, Department of the Army.
- Providing musical support for the U.S. Military Academy, its tenant and supported activities, and as directed by Headquarters, Department of the Army.

ECHELONS ABOVE DIVISION (EAD) LEVEL

1-7. At the EAD, bands support parent units that have high protocol visibility, frequency of interaction with host/third nation dignitaries, a distinct presence in CONUS metropolitan centers and/or moderate concentrations of collocated troops. Emphasis will be placed upon music that furthers the parent unit commander's objectives in these areas, as well as music inherent to soldiering and support of troop gatherings. The principal thrust of this organization will be to act as a non-threatening show of force and professionalism for the parent unit commander. It will be employed to support multinational operations, to significantly strengthen the common spirit and pride of Americans, as well as to build a bond between U.S. forces and peoples of other nations.

- CONUS-based bands provide musical support to selected MACOM headquarters, regional and national U.S. Army recruiting operations, and regional musical support to further the parent unit commander's community relations activities.
- Forward-deployed bands provide musical support to their parent unit and its subordinate units, EAD coalition operations, as well as significant host/third nation civil affairs and community relations operations.

DIVISIONAL LEVEL

1-8. At the divisional level, bands perform missions in support of the parent unit commander's intent. They serve as a combat multiplier for the commander by significantly affecting the morale, esprit de corps and the will-to-win of the troops in their area of operations, assist in relations with host nation populations, and provide area support within the geographic location of the parent unit.

- CONUS-based bands provide musical support to their parent unit and its subordinate units, local U.S. Army recruiting operations, and further the parent unit commander's community relations efforts.
- Forward-deployed bands provide musical support to their parent unit and its subordinate units, counterpart-level coalition operations, and local host/third nation civil affairs and community relations operations.
- Both CONUS and forward deployed bands provide tactical support by augmenting CP security and EPW/CI perimeter security operations.